

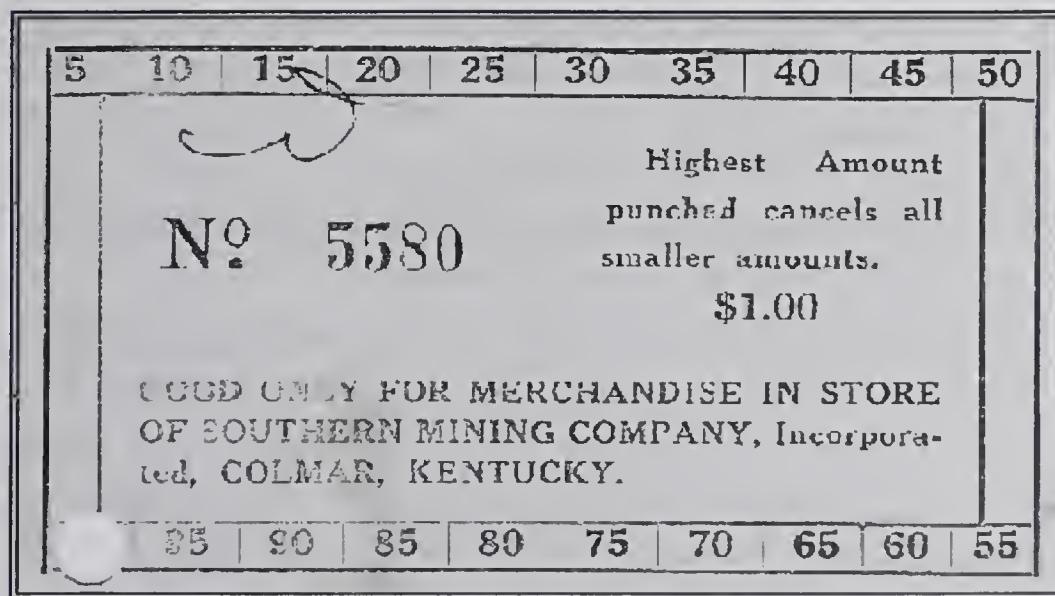
# Scrip Talk

Summer/Fall 2012   Volume # 40   Issue # 170



357553

Fall Scrip Show  
October 5 & 6, 2012  
Pikeville, KY





## **From the President:**

The fall show will be on October 5 & 6 at Pine Mountain State Park, at Pineville, Ky. I want to stress the importance of every member that can to try and make the show. We will be electing all new officers at the meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Fri. evening, Oct. 5. If you are going to make the show and not spending the night, make plans on being at the meeting. This show is also the LAST time to turn in new finds for the Edkins book (black book). We have been working on this book for over 3 years and after the show, it will be heading to the book designer and printer. Also to be discussed will be new book color, new rarity values, etc. Attend the meeting and be part of the decision making process. The show hours are Oct. 5, Fri., noon until 5:00 p.m. Oct. 6, Sat. 8:30 a.m. until noon Sat. The contact number to reserve a room is 606 337 3066. When calling for reservations, make sure to mention that you are with the scrip club. The rooms should be around \$80 a night and \$100 a night for cabin rentals. Everyone will be on their own for the evening meal, and there is an excellent dining room at the lodge.

Hope everyone makes an extra effort to be at the show. Hope to see everyone there. Feel free to call or email at any time with any questions.

Garrett Salyers  
86 McKenzie Lane  
Olive Hill, KY. 41164  
606 286 5056  
[gsalyers@hotmail.com](mailto:gsalyers@hotmail.com)

# **Gilcrest & Wells : 1907 to 1920**

by

*Billy W. Campbell*

Eric Schena and I were talking about WV Ingle coal tokens and he mentioned that the Gilchrist and Wells token order was sent to Wheeler, Alabama. Here is what I have found on the subject.

Listed in Dodrill's book on page 91, item #G219, as Gilchrist & Wells, the store was the company store for A. Gilchrist & Sons Coal Co. from 1907 to 1917. Here lies a problem: in the West Virginia Annual Report of the Department of Mines in Brooke County from 1913 to 1919, West Virginia Pittsburg Coal Co. operated the Gilchrist #3 mine. During those same years there was no Gilchrist or Gilcrest Coal Co. in operation in Brooke County. Note: the spelling is different from Edkins.

John Hudgins has submitted the scan of two Gilchrist and Wells tokens. The Ingle record ledger shows Gilchrist & Wells order #4147 shipped to Wheeler, AL, in approximately 1918. Gilchrist & Wells is listed in Bradstreet from at least 1914 to 1920 in Wheeler, AL, as a general store per John Byars and John Hudgins.

In an email from Donald Clifford he stated, "Gilchrist Coal Co. is listed in Dun listings [WV] of 1900 through 1903. It is not listed in 1907 or 1909 Dun Directory. There is no listing in any Dun Directory from 1900 to 1909 for a Gilchrist & Wells or Gilcrest & Wells at Lazearville. Gilchrist & Wells Ingle scrip was issued with Ingle system 1914 reverse, which would date them to the 1914 - 1920 range. There is no Gilchrist or Gilcrest & Wells listed in any town in West Virginia according to my 1914 Dun listing and my 1914 Bradstreet listing."

Lazearville is not listed in the 1919 Bradstreet directory and no Gilcrest or Gilchrist is listed in Wellsburg, either. The five cent tokens listed in Edkins for Gilcrest & Wells for Lazearville and for Wellsburg appear to be the same token. In my 1889 Bradstreet, Lazearville was one mile from Wellsburg. In the 1912 Annual Report W. A. Gilchrist received a second class certificate in Laing, WV.

## Conclusions:

1. The only token known, [Edkins Catalogue] a five cent Gilcrest & Wells NP solid round either 19-20mm [An error: Eric said Ingle used 20mm on their five cent tokens consistently]. The Ingle system 1914 reverse of Gilcrest & Wells in Lazearville and Wellsburg is the same token. There is now an unlisted ten cent token known.
2. Sometime prior to 1913, West Virginia Pittsburg Coal Co. acquired the Gilchrist operation.
3. Gilchrist & Wells is an ALABAMA token and not a West Virginia token. They operated in West Virginia for a time but, the scrip tokens were used in Alabama not West Virginia.

*Lazearville, WV 1589 [Brooke] and Wellsburg, WV 2969 [Brooke]*

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# I Owe My Soul to the Company Store

By  
Chris Knapp

*Originally published in the Charleston Gazette—February 9, 1979*

Somewhere in the inky depths of Lake Erie lie thousands of stamped pieces of metal — pieces of West Virginia history.

Thousands more are miles below the ground — at the bottom of a core hole drilled in Boone County.

And countless other thousands lie deep within abandoned mines, in a ironic sort of way replacing the mineral which spawned their coinage.

The pieces are scrip, metal tokens coined by the coal companies, issued to the miners of earlier days as an advance on their wages.

For all practical purposes, scrip was the only form of currency used in the West Virginia coalfields, says Bob Craig, a local author and scrip collector who has more than 6,500 pieces in his collection.

Craig said paper scrip first appeared in West Virginia about 1820 when money issued by coal and salt companies like Turner & McFarland and Hewitt. Ruffner and Co., was said to be more commonly used than that issued by the bank of Virginia.

About 1872, Pioneer Coal Co. on Dry Branch of Campbells Creek issued what may be the first metal scrip in the country. Craig has some of that scrip, which he says is not uncommon. "Good for \$1 in merchandise," it says on one side, "at store of PIONEER Coal Co."

The first metal scrip was stamped out of thin brass, the 5 cent piece was often plated with nickel. After 1924, the coins usually alternated between brass, copper and nickel.

Willy Osborne, owner of Osborne Register Co., made a fortune in the '20s and '30s when he introduced a thicker scrip which was not as easily bent and didn't clog the scrip dispensing machines.

"For every little hollow and every little bridge, West Virginia had a company store." Craig said. Food, clothing, furniture — in fact, everything their miners needed, was available at the store — and miners were expected not to take their business elsewhere.

But anytime there is an oft-used and convenient system of trade, it becomes; the medium of exchange for everything — no matter what is stamped on it.

For instance, if a man needed a bottle of whiskey, he could sell his scrip to a discounter for

70 cents on the dollar, then take the cash into town and get his bottle.

Craig, who worked for Kelly's Creek mine in the '40s said he remembers buying scrip back from discounters for 75 cents on the dollar, then using it to buy furniture for his living room from the company store.

Craig said every company also had a gas station which accepted scrip, and buying gas with discounted scrip was another way to save money.

The miners were essentially captive customers in coal company stores – and sometimes the companies took advantage of it.

"Some years the company store would make more money than the mines." Craig said.

By 1942, Wiley Osborne saw the handwriting on the wall. He sold Osborne Register for \$500,000 and moved to Florida.

With the growth of other West Virginia businesses, the companies could no longer hold a captive audience. The big blow to the company store was dealt by mechanized equipment – which greatly reduced the number of miners.

Between 1953 and 1959, the number of stores operated by the New River Co. of Mount Hope dropped from 16 to five. The story of the other companies is the same.

Many companies called their scrip back in when the stores closed, then buried or destroyed it. It was Boomer Coal and Coke which reportedly gathered theirs together at the home office in Cleveland, then dumped it into Lake Erie.

The Boone County Coal Corp. threw their scrip down a core hole. Winding Gulf Collieries at Tams mixed some of its scrip in with concrete and used it as a footer when the firm built a company building. Other companies simply threw theirs down abandoned mines.

Since the value of a particular piece of scrip depends on how much of it is known to exist, that issued by companies like these is obviously worth more than that issued by New River Co. which still uses scrip in its Mount Hope store.

Some scrip has become very valuable to collectors. Craig has a complete set of uncirculated Kellys Creek scrip which he values at \$200. He has a \$1 piece from a Manila (Boone County) mine which is worth \$200 by itself.

But more intrinsically valuable than the dollar worth of these pieces of metal is the story they tell of West Virginia. Hundreds of towns like Ameagle, Mabscott and Putney took their names from the coal mines that were their very reason for existence.

When the mines petered out, the towns often did too. In many cases, the only remnant of the towns is coal company scrip, only "redeemable" at a place which no longer exists.

# CONTACT FORM

Fill out contact form and mail in regarding contact information for trading with other members. Fill out only the information that you want shared, if any. Information will be printed in each edition of Scrip Talk, starting with this issue.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Return to: Scrip Talk POB 922 Skelton, WV 25919

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# Member Directory

Use the form on page 3 to have your name and information included in the directory. Please advise Scrip Talk of any change to your listed information.

Larry W. Laxton  
113 Smith St.  
North Tazewell, VA 24630  
276-979-1081  
laxtonlm@yahoo.com  
Mercer City, WV; WV105B10, 690A1, 1065B25 & B100, 1107A25, 1819A5, 1837B5 & B25 & D10.  
Tazewell City, VA; VA2255G25, 2255L10, 279A25, 1449F1, 1449F5, 2495V5, 2495V10a

Dennis Poland  
3318 Dewine Rd  
Knoxville , TN 37921-4210  
865-558-8536  
All Tenn. tokens (Coal, Merchant, Trade)  
All Transportation Tokens (U.S. & World)  
Vintage Good Luck pieces, So-called Dollars

Fennie Thacker  
5922 Big Ridge Rd  
Haysi, VA 24256  
276-835-8281  
fennieandpatsyt@hotmail.com  
VA-KY-TN tokens,coal,merchant,etc.  
Scatter tags and lumber tokens from anywhere.

Mike Davis  
1409 Gingoteague Way  
Pekin, IL 61554  
309-347-3771  
309-208-6620 (best contact)  
mikedavisII@grics.net  
NEW TO COLLECTING  
Looking for all scrip, notes, records from Illinois, along with advice

Ed George  
66 Frost Ave  
Frostburg, MD 21532  
301-689-5249  
egeorge88fiero@verizon.net  
Scrip from Maryland  
Also scrip from Mineral, Hampshire & Tucker Counties in WV  
Buxton & Landstreet – DNY  
Any Maryland scrip

Billy Campbell  
125 Cambridge Trail  
Madison, AL 35758

256-837-8012  
(Internet best – do not hear well)  
bwcoek@knology.net  
Collect all of WV coal scrip. Minting records for WV. Need approx 1200 Edkins catalogue tokens. Have need lists R1 thru R10. Need contacts to share WV Edkins catalogue scrip information. Have approx 800 unlisted.

Steve Cawood  
127 Ridgewood Circle  
Pineville, KY 40977-1409  
606-337-6622  
606-269-6711  
choochooman@bellsouth.net  
Coal, lumber and Merchant scrip from Bell Harlan, Leslie, Clay, Knox & Whitley County Kentucky; Clayborne & Campbell County, TN; and Lee County, VA. Also exploders and scatter tags from tri-state area.

Bob Shown  
835 N Madison St.  
Beaver Dam, KY 42320  
270-274-4887  
270-256-0553  
Collect West Kentucky  
Need Kentucky – McHenry 1851 (Ohio)  
D-\$10.00-Bi-37-Hx-5D.  
Unlisted - \$1.00

Ken Crabtree  
167 Linwood Dr  
Richlands, VA 24641  
276-964-5764  
Kencrabtree88@gmail.com  
Need coal and lumber scrip esp. VA scrip

Robert S. King  
709 Cardinal Dr.  
Brevard, NC 28712-4260  
828-883-8028  
tokenaddict@citcom.net  
Robert King wants all North Carolina tokens – whetstones.

Jerome Schaeper Jr.  
3466 Meadowlark Dr.  
Edgewood, KY 41018  
859-341-3769  
jschaeperjr@aol.com  
All KY exonumia – trade tokens, scrip, encased coins, adv. watch fobs, dog license tags, adv. Pocket mirrors, ID tags, early medals, and more.  
Will buy or trade.

Joe C. Copeland  
PO Box 4221  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831  
865-482-4215  
[joeocopeland@comcast.net](mailto:joeocopeland@comcast.net)  
TN medals, Masonic, encased, Merchant Tokens, scrip. I have token for trade from other states.

Charles Perry  
5371 E. Allison Rd.  
Camby, IN 46113  
317-831-5491  
Collect coal scrip.  
Primary interest VA, Lee County and Wise County.  
Other interest KY, McCreary County.

Dennis Large  
1252 Old Corbin Rd  
Corbin, KY 40701  
606-528-6764  
I collect mining and store scrip from South Eastern KY. The counties are Bell, Harlan, Knox, Laurel, McCreary and Whitley.

Terry Jordan  
POB 650097  
Potomac Falls, VA 20165-0097  
Terry, WV (Cook & Carter)

Elvin Miller  
POB 366  
Topping, VA 23169  
804/758-3810  
804/543-6183  
[ebmiller@va.metrocast.net](mailto:ebmiller@va.metrocast.net)  
VA tokens—Want List on request.

Harry Bishop  
29 Marcelle St  
Chicopee, MA 01020-1124  
413/536-8472  
[cardworld@charter.net](mailto:cardworld@charter.net)  
Wanting single & small mixed lots of metal coal tokens.

Dick Wohlgemuth  
1905 Brentmoor Ln  
Louisville, KY 40223  
502/426-6342  
502/724-5316  
Want transportation, KY merchant tokens.

Charles Walker  
12703 Old Legislative Rd  
Frostburg, MD 21532  
301-689-3092  
301-697-1304  
[arlie@hotmail.com](mailto:arlie@hotmail.com)  
Need scrip from Maryland.  
Other: Frostburg teapot lamps, coal mining memorable; have scrip to trade.

Jerome Schaeper Jr.  
3466 Meadowlark Drive  
Edgewood, KY 41014  
[jschaeperjr@aol.com](mailto:jschaeperjr@aol.com)  
Kentucky tokens—all types. Plus: KY encased coins, scrip, medals, dog license tags, watch fobs, ID tags.

Joe Zankowitz  
114 Lovell St.  
Beckley, WV 25801  
[jaks@suddenlink.net](mailto:jaks@suddenlink.net)  
New River Company, Slab Fork, Lillybook, McAlpin, Raleigh County scrip

Gene Miller  
3306 Startan Ct  
Louisville, KY 40220  
502/458-2570  
KY, IN, OH, Churchill Downs, Transportation, Coal, Lumber, Dairy, Prison, Powder.

Roger Slusher  
3405 W 2nd Ave  
Belle, WV 25015  
304/982-1274  
Have WV & VA coal scrip. Want CCC Pax Colleries (1189), Hickory Camp (1317), 25 cent Sims Store, Belle, WV (203)

Scrip Talk is driven by the interests and efforts of its readers. Please consider writing an article on any scrip related subject that appeals to you. Chances are you may be the only person who has the knowledge to create such an article. Send articles and photos to: [ktraube@suddenlink.net](mailto:ktraube@suddenlink.net)

# Fishin' with Scrip

By

Steve Cawood

The photo is one of an old friend of mine from Kettle Island, Kentucky, who passed away several years ago. He began his career in mining working as a "white eye" (a teenager not on the payroll performing gang labor for an older miner – his Dad - with a mine section/room assigned to him) at Pioneer Coal Company, who then spent most of his adult life working for the Blue Diamond Coal Company's various mines, including those at Leatherwood (Toner), Pathfork and Chevrolet. After retiring, I represented him in his claims for black lung, and his UMW pension, we became friends, and he would often drop by my office to "loafer", when neither of us were busy.



One day he and I were talking about scrip, and also fishing, and he suddenly got a grin on his face an' said, "Why, I even bought my boat with scrip!" He went on to tell me that while working at Chevrolet, the commissary manager, Bill Powell (whose daughter Jane was a high school sweetheart of mine), began selling aluminum boats and Johnson outboards in the Commissary. My friend and Mr. Powell spent a lotta time examining the boat on display, the manufacturer's catalog, and the price for a "rig" just to fit his specifications, as well as how he'd pay for it. Finally the two settled on a price, and my friend agreed to have a set amount deducted from his weekly paycheck each payday as a "scrip draw" for a two year period, and he drove home with his fishing boat! And every cent paid Blue Diamond for the boat came out of my friend's "scrip" account.

My friend used that boat and motor for more than forty years, and he had it when he died, not long after giving me this photograph taken at his Kettle Island home. The motor was kept on its manufacturer's stand in his garage.

So, while we may have all heard stories of the abuse of scrip, I think that those of us who love both scrip and "wettin' a line" will agree that my ole friend made pretty good use of his scrip draw at Blue Diamond!

And that's why my buddy always claimed that he "fished with scrip".

Appalachian Scrip & Token Association

Collectors Show & Meeting

November 17, 2012

9:00 am - 1:00pm

Mahcott Holiness Church

Annex Building

Whitestick St. Mahcott Wv



For Information Contact

Jack Chapman

(304) 763-5048

OR

Joe Tankowitz

(304) 573-8304

Email: [jaks@suddensink.net](mailto:jaks@suddensink.net)



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## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

WEB SITE: Visit us at [IKO-TAMS.ORG](http://IKO-TAMS.ORG).

CONTACT: Show Chairman

Dave Gossett  
P.O. Box 372  
Miamisburg, OH 45343  
e-mail: [sue26gossett@donet.com](mailto:sue26gossett@donet.com)

Auction Chairman

Terry Stahurski  
549 Mapleview Dr.  
Seven Hills, OH 44131  
Ph. 216 573-0761

# Resources from the NSCA

## Edkins Catalogue of United States Coal Company Scrip

### Volume 1, Third Edition

This 380 page hardcover book lists almost 9000 pieces of scrip. Information includes the company that issued the piece, denominations issued in the series, material the piece is composed of, diameter, shape, visual representation of any cut-out in the piece, and a rarity rating that gives a suggested value.

Issued by the NSCA, this is the recognized guide for collecting and valuing scrip. Volume 1 lists scrip from 36 states, not including West Virginia which is the subject of Volume 2. This is the latest edition and also includes a wealth of information about the history of scrip. Sections include: Early Coal History; Scrip Heritage; How Scrip was Used; Fakes; and a look at the makers of scrip.

**MEMBER COST: \$35 + \$6 shipping**

## Edkins Catalogue of United States Coal Company Scrip

### Volume 2, Third Edition

This 370 page hardcover book lists over 7,400 pieces of West Virginia coal mine scrip. Information includes the company that issued the piece, denominations issued in the series, material the piece is composed of, diameter, shape, visual representation of any cut-out in the piece, and a rarity rating that gives a suggested value. The definitive guide to West Virginia scrip.

Issued by the NSCA, this is the latest edition. Volume 2 lists scrip from West Virginia. This is the current edition and includes a wealth of information about the history and use of scrip, as well as the actual listings of individual pieces.

**MEMBER COST: \$40 + \$6 shipping**

## EXPLOSIVE CONTROL TOKENS

This extensively illustrated volume is the most thorough study of exploder tokens ever written. Contents include: Metals & Compositions, Sizes & Shapes, Valuations, Manufacturers, Counterfeits, Re-strikes, a cross reference to the Edkins catalogues, and more. A fascinating glimpse at the history of a variety of coal mine operations, in addition to its specific focus on exploders. 140 pages, hard cover.

**MEMBER COST: \$20 + \$6 shipping**

## CATALOGUE OF LUMBER COMPANY STORE TOKENS

This book is very similar to the *Edkins* coal scrip books that are the standard for valuing and collecting coal company scrip; but this 575 page hardcover book is dedicated completely to listing the thousands of styles of lumber scrip issued in the past by logging and lumber companies in all 50 states, including maverick listings. Published by the NSCA.

Not only is the value and complete description of each denomination of scrip individually listed, but many companies have a short paragraph about their history of operation, the facilities they owned, or the amount of track laid by the company. A wealth of information for the lumber token collector. **MEMBER COST: \$40 \$30+ \$6 ship**

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WANTED - 1,200 WEST VIRGINIA COAL TOKENS. Send for list, quick and fair pay.  
Billy Campbell, 125 Cambridge Trl., Madison, AL 35758 [bwcok@knology.net](mailto:bwcok@knology.net) +

LISTS EXCHANGED. Send two (2) stamps to receive latest trading list of exploders, lumber tokens, KY and WV coal tokens and transportation. Gene Miller, 3306 Startan Ct., Louisville, KY 40220

If you enjoy collecting coal scrip you will enjoy tokens from the Southeast! Consider joining the SOUTHEASTERN TOKEN SOCIETY (SETS). For a sample newsletter; send your name and address to: C.R. Clark, P.O. Box 48691, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-8691

## HELP WANTED

The Fourth edition of Volume II (West Virginia only) is now well under way. We would like for you to contribute!

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** Searching West Virginia token collections (YOURS) for unlisted, counter-stamped, and solid error tokens. We are trying to verify the tokens that Edkins has listed with these qualities. Any copy place can scan both sides of the tokens in color, and they will be very readable. Twenty (20) tokens can be scanned at one time. We must have that as rubbings are not very reliable. Any information on current catalogue errors, deletions or additions is also welcome.

**TIME FRAME:** I must have in-hand by Nov 1, 2012.

**PAY:** Any assisting collector will be acknowledged in the new revision.

BILLY W. CAMPBELL  
125 CAMBRIDGE TRAIL  
MADISON, AL 35758  
[bwcok@knology.net](mailto:bwcok@knology.net)

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COLONIAL COPPERS AND EARLY STATE COPPERS 1700's to 1790's wanted by collector. Let me know what you have for sale. Thanks! Norman Peters, P.O. Box 29, Lancaster, NY 14086

EXPLODER TOKENS WANTED! I will pay absolute top dollar for any rare explosive control token (powder, dynamite, blasting cap, monobel, etc.) Please let me know what you have. David E. Schenkman, P.O. Box 366, Bryantown, MD 20617 dave@turtlehillbanjo.com +

WANTED: ALL TN TOKENS - obsolete banknotes, National banknotes, Southern C.C.C., Lumber, Coal, and Huntsville, AL tokens. I have many tokens for trade including Florida. Joe C. Copeland, P.O. Box 4221, Oak Ridge, TN 37831 865-482-4215, jocope-land@comcast.net +

3 DIFFERENT PIECES OF W.G. DUNCAN COAL CO. SCRIP. Edkins 1701-B50 (R6), 1701-B25 (R5), & 1157-A5 (R4). I will sell this set of three to the highest bidder. Only one set available. Trades considered. PLEASE WRITE FIRST. Possible trade for HTT, CWT, CTSP Large Cent. Steven Kawalec, P.O. Box 4281, Clifton, NJ 07012 owlprowler@aol.com (937) 868-9258 +

TOP DOLLARS PAID FOR CARBIDE CAP LAMPS, oil wick/lard lamps, blasting cap tins, scatter tags, carbide lamp parts and other small mining artifacts that I may need in my collection. I will pay more than anyone for items needed for my collection. Contact Larry Click, 1021 N. Jefferson St., Arlington, VA 22205-2454, 703-241-3748 or email Larry-Click@msn.com

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